



# News Release

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## **HOT PINK & LOVE TO SHOWCASE TULIP TIME**

VIP's and locals rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty this morning for the first planting of bulbs for the 2015 Tulip Time Festival, to be held throughout the Southern Highlands in 133 days' time from 15 to 27 September 2015.

The 13 day historic festival promises to be one of the most colourful and best on record as it celebrates its 55<sup>th</sup> continuous year as the Southern Highlands most loved community and tourism event.

Wingecarribee Shire Council Mayor, Clr Duncan Gair launched the countdown to this year's festival along with charity partner Andrew Giles, CEO, Garvan Research Foundation in Bowral's picturesque Corbett Gardens. Also joining in on the fun were students from Bowral Public School (class of 6G) and Councilors' Garry Turland, Graham McLaughlin and Ian Scandrett.

Mayor Gair said "Tulip Time is the region's premier tourism event generating huge economic and social benefits for the Southern Highlands. It also provides numerous opportunities for all the local community to get involved, be they young or old."

"I encourage the local community and businesses to get behind this year's festival by planting pink bulbs, decorating your business or shop fronts in pink, participating in the street parade or just supporting any of the events in this year's exciting program by inviting your friends and relatives to visit during this springtime celebration" Mayor Gair added.

Destination Southern Highlands Manager, Steve Rosa highlighted at today's launch that the dormant gardens and striking autumn colours that now blanket the Southern Highlands will soon blaze into a rainbow of color when the 75,000 tulip bulbs and 16,500 annuals show off their beauty in spring. Steve said "This year's festival theme colour is hot pink in support of our charity partner Garvan Research Foundation and the 'Love Your Sister' breast cancer campaign. Southern Highlanders will share their LOVE of Tulip Time and throw their support behind this year's Festival Ambassadors, brother and sister, Samuel and Connie Johnson.

Each year Council's Parks and Gardens team set themselves a big challenge to better the design and presentation of the garden beds in Corbett Gardens for Tulip Time over the previous years. Head Gardner, Rod Mcternan said "This year we have designed flower beds that will bring to life the festival theme of Mother Nature. The bulbs are carefully sourced from Victoria and Tasmania to showcase these magnificent plants and to create a visual extravaganza that will delight all who visit the gardens throughout the festival. Garden beds presenting Pyramids, Glaciers and Rainbows will be the star attractions."

The challenge of also producing an exciting festival program for both locals and visitors each year is not an easy one however; this year's program promises to deliver some awesome events aimed to entertain all ages, such as the:

- Community Breakfast hosted by Radio 2ST - 18 September from 7am, Corbett Gardens
- Sunset Cinema screening the much loved sing along movie 'Happy Feet' - 19 September from 6pm, Corbett Gardens
- Street Parade with the special inclusion of unicyclists - 19 September from 2pm along Bong Bong Street
- Tulip Time Mile (Street Foot Race) – 19 September prior to Street Parade at 2pm along Bong Bong Street
- Sounds of Spring - 19 September from 3.30pm, Corbett Gardens
- Butterscotch's Playground featuring Greg Page ex Yellow Wiggle - 22 September at 11am, Corbett Gardens
- Street Market – 26 & 27 September in Wingecarribee Street
- Music in the Gardens - 26 September from 2pm, Corbett Gardens, and
- Dogs Day Out with special guest appearances by James and Anthony from Village Vets Australia on Foxtel's The LifeStyle Channel - 27 September, 9-4pm, Corbett Gardens

**ENDS**

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**For Further Information & Images**

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